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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-sixth session of the Commission/ seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

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# FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

91-467

# FOLLOW UP ACTIONS ON RESOLUTION 704 (XXV) - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NAMIBIA

1. In resolution 704 (XXV) of 19 May 1990, the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa specifically mandated the Executive Secretary of ECA "to mount, within the limits of available resources, an emergency programmes of assistance to Namibia". The following assistance was provided by the Secretariat in various areas:

## A. Contribution to the preparation of a Provisional Investment Programme for Namibia

2. Prior to the independence of Namibia and consequently to the adoption of resolution 704(XXV), the Economic Commission for Africa was requested by the Government - elect of Namibia, through the UNDP Office in Windhoek, to contribute to the preparation of a Provisional Investment Programme for Namibia. The assistance provided by ECA consisted of the assignment of a senior economist for nine weeks and Public Administration Officer for four weeks. Both staff provided substantive inputs in:

(a) The identification of the priority areas of agriculture, education, health and housing;

(b) The drafting of the general policy statement of the Government; and

(c) The drafting of the provisional investment programme including the identification and cost estimate of projects in the priority areas and the external assistance needs for both capital and recurrent expenditures for the period 1990-1992.

3. The Executive Secretary of ECA attended personally the Pledging Conference convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 21-22 June 1990 at United Nations headquarters in New York. The Pledging Conference received in the form of pledges an estimated $US 200 million for 1990 and $US 150 million for each of the fiscal years 1991 and 1992.

## B. Training workshop on agricultural restructuring

4. In August 1990, the ECA secretariat was requested to provide a resource person for a workshop organized by the Association of Agricultural Economist of Namibia. In view of that a document was prepared by that resource person of ECA on "An Alternative Strategy to Structural Adjustment in African Agriculture: Some Lessons for Namibia" which was instrumental in the discussions at the Workshop. The Workshop enabled agricultural administrators in Namibia to assess ways of optimizing agricultural development among the various countries of Southern Africa with special reference to agricultural development in independent Namibia.

## C. Advisory services in statistics

5. Following the adoption of resolution 704 (XXV), the ECA Demography Statistics Adviser participated in a UNFPA-sponsored Needs Assessment/Pre-programme Development Mission to Namibia. Specifically, the Adviser assisted in the assessment of the Government's needs in the area of population data collection and the integration of population factors into development planning. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the Namibia population census project has since then visited ECA to hold technical discussions in that regard.

## D. Assistance to Namibian Women

6. In October 1990, the ECA secretariat fielded an assistance mission to Namibian women to collect data on the status of women, hold consultations with women organizations, provide information on the Abuja Declaration on the Role of Women in Africa in the 1990s, and provide guidelines on the incorporation of women's concerns in National Development Plans. The mission held working sessions with the National Planning Commission, the Women's Desk in the President's Office, SWAPO Women's Council, the Legal Assistance Centre and other groups. Following the discussions, the mission formulated recommendations in the fields of national policy on women in development, human and financial resources, information and data on women, women and law, etc.